GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3836
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
PROVISION OF COACH ATTENDANT AND FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN TRAINS
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether provision of Coach attendant and fire extinguisher in each coach and coaches with fire resistance capacity, as per recommendations made by the sub-committee of Consultative Committee for Ministry of Railways on October 26, 1994 have been implemented so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether as per recommendations of said committee, institution of Instant Action Group in selected and all long distance trains, awareness among public about hazards of carrying inflammable goods and articles on trains, have been satisfactorily implemented;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) to (c) At present, Coach Attendants are deployed in upper class coaches. Provision of one Coach Attendant in each Sleeper Coach would require creation of additional posts. Moreover, considering the total quantum of work required to be done in the reserved coach and financial implications involved in providing a Coach Attendant in each Sleeper coach, it is not considered desirable to provide Coach Attendant in each coach. The Railways are continuously upgrading the fire retardant properties of the materials used in coach construction so that the coach can sustain prolonged exposure to fire. Fire extinguishers are provided in locos, Guard`s compartment, pantry car, air-conditioned coaches and generator cars. In other coaches the provision of the same is not considered feasible.

(d) to (f) The scheme of Instant Action Group was introduced in 1994. At present a set of staff of certain categories alongwith a Train Superintendent have been provided on 30 long distance trains to assist passengers for safe and comfortable journey. Instructions exist to conduct checks against carriage of inflammable materials in trains and for excercising vigil to prevent carrying of such articles. Publicity is done through Press and media to educate the public regarding the safety hazards in carrying inflammable materials. These instructions are reiterated to all concerned for strict compliance.